

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and the specification is amended. Reconsideration in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Specification Satisfies Formal Matters

The Office Action objects to the specification based on minor informalities. The specification has been amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Satisfy Formal Matters

The Office Action objects to claim 4 stating that the term "approximately 80 percent or more" does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

One skilled in the art typically recognizes that any dimension or numeric value associated with a composite or a product is associated with certain tolerances. Thus, the word "approximately" would convey to a skilled artisan that the claim contemplates certain tolerances associated with a percentage of reflectance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 4 is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2, 5-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Oe (U.S. Patent No. 5,863,113); rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Oe in view of Hansen (U.S. Patent No. 3,622,231); rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Oe; and rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Oe in view of Dewald (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0135862). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, neither Oe, Hansen nor Dewald, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests an end face of an outer periphery of an emerging-end opening being a scattering surface or a blaze surface that reflects the incident light from a color wheel on the end face toward a central axis of the rod integrator, as recited in independent claim 1.

Oe discloses in Fig. 8, a light guide 1 with a rectangular plate shape, an element 3 having prism units provided on the light emitting surface 6, a light source 4, and a reflector 5 for holding the light source 4 and reflecting the light to the incident surface by a reflective surface provided on the inner surface thereof. The opposite surface of the light emitting surface 6 of the light guide 1 has a light reflective layer 2 (see col. 6, lines 4-18).

Nowhere does Oe disclose or suggest the above-noted feature of the claims.

Neither Hansen nor Dewald compensate for the above-noted deficiencies of Oe.

Hansen discloses in Fig. 2 that optics 2-14 may have increasing heights as they are situated further from the focal point 40.

Dewald discloses in Figs. 6 and 8, and at paragraph [0045] that Light 602 from a light source enters an aperture in a reflective end of a recycling integrator rod 604. The light travels through the rod, reflecting on the surfaces of the rod whether by internal reflection in a solid rod or by mirrored surfaces of a hollow or solid rod and exits the end of the rod adjacent to a sequential color filter 606 which may be a spiral color wheel.

However, nowhere does Hansen or Dewald disclose or suggest the above-noted features of claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2-9 depend on independent claim 1, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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